



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Louis Orenstein**

**HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DETROIT TO UNLICENSED  
WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS  
STOLEN FROM McKESSON AND PHARMACIA-UPJOHN**

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A dual resident of Highland Park, Illinois and Delray Beach, Florida pleaded guilty today to unlicensed wholesale distribution of prescription medications stemming from bulk sales of approximately \$5,534,000 worth of prescription medications, many of which had been stolen from a distribution center operated by McKesson Corporation and from Pharmacia-Upjohn in the Chicago, Illinois area, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge, and Michael Cleary, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago, Illinois Office of Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation.

Louis Orenstein, age 67, entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Marianne O. Battani in Detroit, Michigan.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that from November 20, 1998 through December 12, 2001, in the Northern District of Illinois and the Eastern District of Michigan, Mr. Orenstein, a licensed beautician and wholesale supplier of beauty products to retailers in the Chicago area, sold and distributed the various medications, including Prilosec, Lipitor, Celebrex, Depakote, Vioxx, Amoxil and others, to Raymond Greenspan, doing business in the Eastern District of Michigan, without having been licensed by either the state of Illinois or Michigan as required. Further, many of the prescription medications which the defendant distributed from Illinois to Michigan had been stolen from a warehouse owned and operated by McKesson Corporation and from a shipment initiated by Pharmacia-Upjohn, a pharmaceutical manufacturer.

United States Attorney Murphy said “Selling unlicensed prescription drugs can endanger the public health. Federal and state regulations require that prescription medications be handled by licensed wholesalers and retailers every step of the way and that records be kept to ensure accountability. When drugs are sold outside this system of protections, the risks are high that medications may have been mishandled, mislabeled or worse – creating a real threat to public safety. Both the F.D.A. and the F.B.I. should be commended for their excellent cooperative efforts leading to these convictions.”

F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge Daniel Roberts noted: “This case was particularly egregious in as much as Mr. Orenstein profited handsomely without regard to the quality of the medications he was selling.”

F.D.A. Office of Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Michael Cleary added: “This case illustrates the importance of the FDA’s work to ensure that the drugs that reach the public are safe and effective for use.”

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Mr. Orenstein faces up to 37 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. Mr. Orenstein was also required to forfeit to the government approximately \$1,525,000.00. He was required to tender to the government a certified check for \$1,376,426.00 prior to his guilty plea, in addition to all rights and interest in a UBS investment account which had been previously administratively seized by the F.B.I. Moreover, the defendant has agreed to pay \$225,000 to the United States District Court prior

to his sentencing, now scheduled for March 29, 2007 at 2:30, toward a total restitution obligation of \$3,734,853.00 which will be imposed by the Court as part of his sentence.

Mr. Orenstein's guilty plea represents the third conviction arising from this investigation. Raymond Greenspan of West Bloomfield, Michigan previously pleaded guilty to unlicensed wholesale distribution of prescription medications and is awaiting sentencing by Judge Battani. William "Ronnie" Deaton of Chicago pleaded guilty to the interstate transportation of stolen property and was sentenced to serve six months in prison, pay restitution of \$392,785, and forfeit \$100,000 to the government.